

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

**SEP 09 2004**

**PATENT APPLICATION  
Attorney Docket No. A1232-US-NP**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor(s): Alain E. Perregaux et al.

Application No.: 09/996,681

Filed: 11/30/2001

Examiner: Lan Vinh

Art Unit: 1765

Confirmation No.: 4178

**Title: USE OF A U-GROOVE AS AN ALTERNATIVE  
TO USING A V-GROOVE FOR PROTECTION  
AGAINST DICING INDUCED DAMAGE IN SILICON**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this  
correspondence is being facsimile  
transmitted to the U.S. Patent and  
Trademark Office (Fax No. (703)  
872-9306, on:

9/9/2004

(Date of transmission)

  
Francie S. LePore

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In keeping with a Request for Continued Examination under §1.114, and  
responsive to the Final Office Action mailed June 9, 2004, please amend the  
application as follows: